

## **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **February 23, 2015**

The Honorable Council of the City of Evansville met on regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2015 in the City Council Chambers, Room 301 Civic Center Complex, Evansville, Indiana, with President H. Dan Adams presiding. The following business was conducted.

**These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript. Audiotapes of this meeting are on file in the City Clerk's Office.**

**President Adams:** The Honorable Council of the City Of Evansville is hereby called to order. Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Robinson, Friend, Lindsey, O'Daniel, Weaver, Adams

**President Adams:** There being nine (9) members present and zero (0) absent, and nine members represent a quorum, I hereby declare this session of the Common Council officially opened.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman McGinn, would you lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

#### **RECOGNITION OF SCHOOLS**

Okay, do we have any students in the audience that would like to be recognized? Will you all stand up please? There are also a bunch already standing up in the back. Wow, what a great turn-out. Thank you so much for coming to see democracy in action. If you would need something signed at the end of the session, please come up; we'll all be glad to sign your chits and get you registered for here.

#### **TEEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

I don't think we have any Teen Advisory people, any committee people there.

#### **COUNCIL ATTORNEY**

Our Council Attorney is the esteemed Ryan Hatfield who is well known for his awareness of urban law.

#### **SERGEANT AT ARMS**

Lt. Kirby is here again as our Sergeant at Arms.

I would like to have a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** So moved.

**Councilman McGinn:** Second.

**President Adams:** We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**IN YOUR FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup> PACKET:**

- \* Ordinances F-2015-1 Amended, R-2015-3, R-2015-4 and R-2015-5
- \* Growth Alliance 2014 Annual Report
- \* City Council Meeting Agenda and Committee Meeting Schedule for February 23, 2015

**EMAILED MATERIAL:**

- \* City Council Meeting Minutes for January 26, 2015
- \* Information concerning Trap-Neuter-Return program from Evansville Partnership for Animal Welfare

**ON YOUR DESK THIS EVENING:**

- \* Extended Agenda for February 23, 2015
- \* Weights and Measures Monthly Report from January – February 2015

**President Adams:** Is there a motion to receive, file, and make these reports and communications part of the minutes of the meeting?

**Councilwoman Robinson:** So moved.

**Councilman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Second.

**President Adams:** We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? So pass.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**ORDINANCE G-2015-5**

**A.S.D.**

**WEAVER**

Ordinance Amending Chapter 2.175 (Police Department Merit System) of the Evansville Municipal Code

**President Adams:** Is there a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as written?

**Councilwoman Mosby:** So moved.

**Councilman Weaver:** Second.

**President Adams:** There's been a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed?

### **SUSPENSION OF THE RULES**

**President Adams:** Okay, we're going to have a little discussion here on the Suspension of Rules. We have to see whether we can suspend the rules and hear Ordinance G-2015-5 in all three readings this evening. Are there any comments or anybody wants to...

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Yeah, I think generally I don't like doing this; however, this was given pretty far notice that they would ask us to suspend the rules on this merit ordinance and so I feel pretty comfortable moving forward. That's just a comment I have.

**Councilman Lindsey:** I agree also. I talk to Chuck Knoll and some of the officers and I think it's just more just like a...just some housekeeping; needs to be done and I'm for going ahead and doing all three readings.

**President Adams:** Any other comments? Alright, just for the audience, normally we don't do an ordinance in one, two, three fashion in one night so that you, the public, can have a comment of this. In this juncture we will have a second reading. You may have some comment at that time but this is a pretty straightforward problem that needs to be solved.

I will ask for a motion to suspend the rules on Ordinance G-2015-5 in all three readings this evening?

**Councilman O'Daniel:** So moved.

**Councilman Friend:** Second.

**President Adams:** All those in favor? I guess we have to have a roll call, or do we?

**Councilman O'Daniel:** *(Off Mic) (Inaudible)*

**President Adams:** Huh? What?

**Councilman O'Daniel:** *(Off Mic)* Yeah, I guess we do.

**President Adams:** Yeah, why don't we have a roll call vote please.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Aye:** McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Robinson, Friend, Lindsey, O'Daniel, Weaver, Adams

**President Adams:** There being nine (9) Ayes and zero (0) Nays, G-2015-5 will be heard on all three meetings tonight.

Second Agenda please.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**ORDINANCE G-2015-3 AMENDED      PUBLIC WORKS      LINDSEY**

An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of an Unnamed 12 Foot Wide Alley Located East of 1331 West Franklin Street in the City of Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana

**ORDINANCE G-2015-4      PUBLIC WORKS      ROBINSON**

An Ordinance to Vacate a Public Right-of-Way: 1) All of the 12' Alley Lying Northeast of Lot 6 in the Lower Enlargement to the City of Evansville, as per Plat thereof, Recorded in Plat Book E, Page 24 in the Office of the Recorder of Vanderburgh County, Indiana, said Alley Lying Southwest of Lot 11 in said Lower Enlargement: Within the City of Evansville, Indiana, Commonly known as 507 NW Riverside Drive

**ORDINANCE G-2015-5      A.S.D.      WEAVER**

Ordinance Amending Chapter 2.175 (Police Department Merit System) of the Evansville Municipal Code

**ORDINANCE F-2015-1 AMENDED      FINANCE      O'DANIEL**

An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Evansville Authorizing Transfer, Re-appropriations and Additional Appropriations of Funds within Various Departments

**ORDINANCE F-2015-2      FINANCE      MCGINN**

An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Evansville Authorizing the Investment of Public Funds Pursuant to IC 5-13-9-5.7

**RESOLUTION C-2015-3      FINANCE      MCGINN**

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Evansville Authorizing and Approving the Entry into an Interlocal Agreement for the Investment of Public Funds

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

**CHAIRMAN O'DANIEL**

**Chairman O'Daniel:** Mister President, your Finance Committee met this evening to hear ***Ordinances F-2015-1 Amended, F-2015-2*** and ***Resolution C-2015-3*** all come forward with do-pass recommendations.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:**

**CHAIRMAN LINDSEY**

**Chairman Lindsey:** Mister President, your Public Works Committee met this evening to hear ***Ordinances G-2015-3 Amended*** and ***G-2015-4*** and they both come forward with a do-pass.

**President Adams:** Is there a motion to adopt the Committee Reports and move the Ordinances and Resolution to Third Reading?

**Councilman Friend:** So moved.

**Councilwoman Mosby:** Second.

**President Adams:** Thank you. There is a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? So ordered.

Third Reading.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**ORDINANCE G-2015-3 AMENDED      PUBLIC WORKS      LINDSEY**

An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of an Unnamed 12 Foot Wide Alley Located East of 1331 West Franklin Street in the City of Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana

**President Adams:** Is there a motion to adopt Ordinance G-2015-3 Amended.

**Councilman Weaver:** So moved.

**Councilwoman Robinson:** Second.

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes:** McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Robinson, Friend, Lindsey, O'Daniel, Weaver, Adams

**President Adams:** There being nine (9) ayes and zero (0) nays, Ordinance G-2015-3 Amended is therefore declared adopted.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

#### **ORDINANCE G-2015-4**

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **ROBINSON**

An Ordinance to Vacate a Public Right-of-Way: 1) All of the 12' Alley Lying Northeast of Lot 6 in the Lower Enlargement to the City of Evansville, as per Plat thereof, Recorded in Plat Book E, Page 24 in the Office of the Recorder of Vanderburgh County, Indiana, said Alley Lying Southwest of Lot 11 in said Lower Enlargement: Within the City of Evansville, Indiana, Commonly known as 507 NW Riverside Drive

**President Adams:** Is there a motion to adopt Ordinance G-2015-4?

**Councilman Lindsey:** So moved.

**President Adams:** Second?

**Councilwoman Mosby:** Second.

**President Adams:** Thank you. There's been a motion and a second. Roll call please.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Ayes:** McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Robinson, Friend, Lindsey, O'Daniel, Weaver, Adams

**President Adams:** There being nine (9) ayes and zero (0) nays, Ordinance G-2015-4 is hereby adopted.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

#### **ORDINANCE G-2015-5**

#### **A.S.D.**

#### **WEAVER**

Ordinance Amending Chapter 2.175 (Police Department Merit System) of the Evansville Municipal Code

**President Adams:** Is there any discussion on this ordinance at this point from the Council? John?

**Councilman Friend:** No, I don't have any comment.

**President Adams:** Okay.

**Councilman Friend:** Maybe somebody some body in the audience might.

**President Adams:** Is there anyone from the audience would like to make a comment on this ordinance?

Okay, hearing none I'll entertain a motion and a second.

**Councilwoman Mosby:** So moved.

**Councilman Lindsey:** Second.

**President Adams:** Thank you. Roll call please.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Ayes:** McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Robinson, Friend, Lindsey, O'Daniel, Weaver, Adams

**President Adams:** There being nine (9) ayes and zero (0) nays, Ordinance G-2015-5 is hereby declared adopted.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

#### **THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

#### **ORDINANCE F-2015-1 AMENDED      FINANCE      O'DANIEL**

An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Evansville Authorizing Transfer, Re-appropriations and Additional Appropriations of Funds within Various Departments

**President Adams:** I'd entertain a motion.

**Councilman Lindsey:** So moved.

**Councilman McGinn:** Second.

**President Adams:** Second? We have a motion and a second; roll call please.

#### ***Comments made prior to casting their respective votes:***

**Councilman McGinn:** You know I never thought I'd see the day when I'd be thrilled to 35 basis points as a return on several million dollars. I vote aye.

**President Adams:** I kinda like also the fact that the ladder was very...the ladder was very short and therefore he was flexible too. I vote aye.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Ayes:** McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Robinson, Friend, Lindsey, O'Daniel, Weaver, Adams

**President Adams:** There being nine (9) ayes and zero (0) nays, Ordinance F-2015-1 Amended and here I declare it adopted.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**ORDINANCE F-2015-2**

**FINANCE**

**McGINN**

An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Evansville Authorizing the Investment of Public Funds Pursuant to IC 5-13-9-5.7

**President Adams:** Is there a motion to adopt F-2015-2?

**Councilman Lindsey:** So moved.

**Councilman McGinn:** Second.

**President Adams:** Thank you and we have a motion and a second. Roll call please.

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes:** McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Robinson, Friend, Lindsey, O'Daniel, Weaver, Adams

**President Adams:** We have nine (9) ayes and zero (0) nays, Ordinance F-2015-2 is therefore declared adopted.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION C-2015-3**

**FINANCE**

**McGINN**

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Evansville Authorizing and Approving the Entry into an Interlocal Agreement for the Investment of Public Funds

**President Adams:** Is there a motion to adopt Resolution C-2015-3?

**Councilman McGinn:** So moved.

**Councilman Lindsey:** Second.

**President Adams:** Thank you. We have a motion and a second.

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes:** McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Robinson, Friend, Lindsey, O'Daniel, Weaver, Adams



**President Adams:** There being nine (9) ayes and zero (0) nays, Resolution C-2015-3 is hereby declared adopted.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

There will not be a meeting on Monday, March 2, I'm sorry to say. The next meeting with the Common Council will be Monday on March 9 at 5:30 p.m. The Committee Meetings, at this juncture, will begin at 5:25 p.m.

Tonight we have a real treat. Kendall Paul of the Evansville Partnership for Animal Welfare (EPAW) is going to talk to us about a fascinating case of anthropological or biological engineering. I think it's a simple but a wonderfully effective thing and it's called Trap-Neuter-Release and fortunately it has nothing to do with humans; it has a lot to do with cats and dogs.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** Good evening. Can I hand this to you guys?

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Sure. If you just want to pass...

**President Adams:** If you do it judiciously you're welcome to do so. Got to be careful.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** Good evening. I'm Kendall Paul and I am the Director of the Vanderburgh Human Society here in Evansville but tonight I'm here representing EPAW which is Evansville Partnership for Animal Welfare. Just a brief history about EPAW: This is a group that is a collaboration of animal welfare agencies. We got together just about two years ago and really we have a lot of very similar goals and a lot of similar visions for the animal welfare industry in this community, and the way the animals can be taken care of, and the goals that we have for them.

We thought it was a good idea for the local non-profit organizations that have like-minded missions to form this collaboration and work together. We have different methods of doing things but we all have very similar goals and visions. I've presented you with our mission, our goals, our vision so you can familiarize a little bit more with EPAW.

Just so that you know who's involved in EPAW right now: Currently on our board EPAW is represented. We do have a liaison from the Evansville Animal Care and Control and that's Lisa Webster. We also have represented Another Chance for Animals, which is a local 501(c)3 group as well. We also have It Takes a Village, which is a canine rescue, also a 501(c)3. We also have the Vanderburgh Humane Society, which is the agency that I represent, also a 501(c)3. We do have a representative for the local veterinarian community as well as officer Sarah Brown from the Evansville Police Department so that's who makes up EPAW currently.

We've had several public meetings and been talking with members of our own organizations but it's a group that allows us to not only work towards kind of a vision and mission in this community together using our own organizations and thinking about those goals but then things like tonight where we have common goals and we can come together and we can address a group like yourself and let you know about an issue that's happening in our community and a solution that we feel will help it. That's where we come to the Community Cats and Trap-Neuter-Return.

Audrey Julian with Another Chance for Animals, she put together this presentation for us tonight so thank you Audrey for doing that for us.

To let you know a little bit about it, cats in our community...anytime you've roamed or driven down an alley anywhere in our community a lot of times you'll see cats roaming on the street. Really cats in our community are coming from different areas. There are owned cats and there are unowned cats. There are cats that are indoor cats. There are then-owned cats that are also outdoors or cats that were once pets that no...have gotten outdoors and are now living outside or cats that have been born outdoors because the cats that are out have not been spayed or neutered and they continue to have litters of kittens and then those litters have litters and then those litters have litters and so on and that's where we see these large populations of cats in our community. There are some very friendly cats that are still free-roaming cats and there are feral cats or cats that are fractious are not handleable; cats that you cannot socialize. They're living outside; they're certainly adding the population problem if they've not been spayed or neutered but they're not cats that would easily transition into being a pet cat.

Currently there's not a great method of taking care of these cats based on our ordinances. Traditional methods of trapping cats, taking them into shelters, and having them euthanized, these methods are really ineffective. They are very costly. They are certainly very difficult on the staff and volunteers that are at these facilities that are having to euthanize these cats, or put these cats to death, so you have a lot of turnover in shelters, you have a lot of compassion fatigue in shelters because that's not what these individuals want to do. They're help and protect these animals.

It's also not something that is very well received by the public. Certainly the public would have...much rather have a method of dealing with these cats that is not trap and euthanize.

Traditional methods: The majority of the cats that are entering shelters that are kittens are coming into shelters because they've not been spayed or neutered. Obviously, that's exactly why it's happening. We've got free-roaming cats that aren't fixed. These cats are making more kittens, kittens are being scooped up, and they're being brought

in shelters like the Evansville Animal Control facility, the Vanderburgh Humane Society, and other agencies that help deal with these animals.

The vacuum effect: If you have cats that are currently living in neighborhoods, it might be a family that's taking care of a cat, it might be that they have found resources under a bridge someplace, but there's some way...some reason that they're there and that they are thriving. If they have not been fixed, they're continuing to add to that population. If you then trap those cats and remove them from that location all you're doing is creating a vacuum effect. More cats will simply move right in to where those resources are located so the idea is to not remove the cats from those locations but to fix them.

You can take a little bit a look at some Evansville statistics. This includes the Vanderburgh Humane Society statistics as well as Evansville Animal Care and Control. We're dealing with about 3,000 plus cats that are coming into our facilities every year. Certainly the number one reason at our facility that cats are being turned in are unwanted litters of kittens. There is a better way than to just put them down, especially when we're dealing with these cats that are already living out in the population.

Why so many cats? Its staggering guys, it really, really is. It just takes two. When you start with two, we're seeing in our low-cost spay and neuter clinic, kittens as young as four months of age in heat so kittens can turn right around and start adding to the over population in our community. You can see very quickly if one set of cats have kittens and then their kittens have kittens and their kittens have kittens it tallies very, very fast.

What is the better way? Trap-Neuter-Return. Actually this method is already taking place in our community. The Vanderburgh Humane Society, we opened our low-cost spay and neuter clinic back in 2007. Since that time we have actually spayed or neutered over 7,000 trapped cats right here in Evansville so it's already taking place. There're certainly other veterinarians in our community who are also participating. However, our current ordinances don't really allow for this program and it creates some problems for our organizations and for other individuals who want to get involved in doing this.

This is a humane method of dealing with these cats. What happens when cats that are feral cats or free-roaming cats are trapped, brought into a veterinarian, they are then looked over, look at their health, they're also given vaccinations at that time, which currently they're not getting any vaccinations. They're going to get a rabies vaccination at that time then they're going to get spayed or neutered and then they get ear-tipped. Ear-tipping is where actually we remove a very small portion of the ear so that they're easily identifiable in the community. This is a nationally, a universally, recognized symbol when you're dealing with Trap-Neuter-Return programs so that people can very

easily, whether they catch another cat or at a distance, can identify that that cat has been fixed and is not then adding to the population problem in our community.

The great thing about TNR is it certainly reduces the shelter rates so certainly at Evansville Animal Care and Control we would see numbers continue to drop with cats. Same with Vanderburgh Humane Society, or any other animal welfare group, that is dealing with these. It improves public health because now we have vaccinated cats that are outdoors so we're seeing a less possibility of transmission of rabies or other illnesses. It also provides for some grant funding. Non-profit organizations oftentimes rely on some foundations to put on special programming where we can offer low-cost spay and neuter or we can work with residents who want to take care of these cats but they personally can't afford to go into their own pocket to pay for the spay and neuter, so this allows us to apply for grant funding for foundations where we can try to bring in some funding, help these individuals spay or neuter these cats, and that way these cats are being cared for and they're not adding to the population.

What happens right now is organizations and foundations that would fund things like this, they're going to look at our ordinance. If these cats are not protected in the ordinance then they're not going to put their investment by giving us funding if these cats then could simply be gathered up and taken into a shelter and euthanized so it would certainly help out in that respect as well.

One of the great things about TNR is it really reduces the nuisance complaints. That's a big point because you have a lot of outdoor cats, certainly sometimes they can be nuisances to individuals, they can cause problems for people, and most of those things fall into the mating behavior. Spraying for territorialism, roaming, yowling, cat fights; all of those things are related to the mating behavior so if you are taking that away from them you're reducing those problems. Most outside cats that have been fixed stay where the resources are, they're far less likely to roam, they're far less likely to get into fights or cause problems for people. It doesn't solve it 100% but there are other ways of dealing with those particular situations but it does handle it for the most part. It also then, of course, the great benefit is you're stabilizing the number and eventually reducing the number of cats in your community.

I just want to remind you we are not adding new cats. These cats are already there. These cats already exist in our community so what we're looking at is a way that, over time through attrition, these cats are fixed and then they live in that colony. If you remove them, like we mentioned with the vacuum effect, more cats are simply going to move in. If you fix those cats, they maintain that location, they don't let other cats come in, but over time those cats will eventually die out from age and then you have hopefully been able to fix other cats so there aren't new cats to move in once those cats are gone.

A community cat is a definition that we would like added to the ordinance along with a few minor changes. A community cat would be recognized as a cat that is an outdoor cat or as a cat that has been fixed and has been ear-tipped; that makes it become a community cat. Since there're so many different definitions: feral cat, free-roaming cat, it's an owned cat, it's an unowned cat, but if you have a cat that has been fixed, has an ear-tip, that means its then protected and that means that it can't just be trapped and then taken into a shelter to be euthanized. If that cat is becoming a nuisance we can work with that family we can try to figure out why it's calling nuisances. Most of the time, once it's become a community cat, it won't be adding to those problems. Certainly if it does then those issues can be address on an individual basis with those cats.

Here are a couple of critics. We were just talking about nuisances. A lot of times those things are taken care of. Cats carry rabies. As we just addressed, these cats, once they've been fixed, are getting a rabies vaccination. Right now if we leave 'em where they are they're simply adding to the population and they don't have a rabies vaccinations on top of it so that can be a problem.

Another big one would be cats kill birds. Obviously that's a concern all the way around but these cats are already there. It's already happening and this particular program would allow us to eventually reduce those cats so that we don't have as many out there. And just as a reminder, cats are not the primary threat to birds. Actually destruction of their environment is actually the biggest threat to them right now. But we're actually looking at trying to reduce the number of cats; not add to them which will eventually help in all aspects.

Again, cats are vaccinated against rabies, so that's a big plus. As I mentioned there are some cat deterrents so if someone is dealing with cats in their neighborhood, there are certainly things that they can put on to their garden areas, there are, you know, motion activated sprinklers that can come on if you're trying to keep a cat out of a particular location.

But again, these are cats that are already there and if we're allowed to this and our community allows us to work with residents if they have nuisance complaints to try to solve those things instead of automatically jumping to euthanizing the animal or putting it to death.

This is very successful in many communities. TNR in Jacksonville, Florida, you can take a look. They started their Feral Freedom program; it's one of the most successful programs in the country dealing with feral cats. During the time when they started it in 2007, they've seen a net savings of \$160,000; 13,000 lives saved. Their animal control

has seen a decrease in the number of feline nuisance complaints, and of course a drop, a huge drop, in the number of cats that entering their facility.

It's not an overnight fix but it is something that can eventually work. We are already seeing it happen in our community because we've been doing it but by changing a few simple things in the ordinance it would allow some people who are afraid that if they do this, or if they let us know that they're doing this, that they could get ticketed or they could be written a citation because they are harboring an animal, because they're re-releasing an animal, or dumping, or abandoning an animal. There're a few things in the ordinance that if these animals are not excluded it causes a problem.

Some other examples: You can see with Indianapolis there, the national average really, kind of with Indianapolis, \$130.00 for their animal control to trap, hold, and put to death a cat. In turn, if they use Indy Feral and that cat is fixed it costs \$20.00 so a lot more cost effective.

There are existing resources right here in town already, as I mentioned, the Vanderburgh Humane Society has already spayed or neutered over 7,000 trapped cats since we started in 2007. In fact, tomorrow is Spay Day USA. Really kind of nice to be here tonight because tomorrow is that. Vanderburgh Humane Society is partnering for Another Chance for Animals. We have...we're going to be fixing...spaying or neutering 50 cats tomorrow at our low-cost spay or neuter clinic. They have two areas in town where there have been problems with cats getting out of control. They've been able to trap; they worked over the weekend trapping cats. They're bringing them in to us tomorrow. We're going to fix them and then they'll return them to those locations so this would allow more of these types of things to happen with just a few simple changes.

I won't go through each one of these; you all have them to review but what we're looking at is some simple definitions which would show you some exclusions, like excluding community cats, and again, a community cat means it's been fixed and it has an ear-tip so it's not adding to that continued problem. You can see the same thing with like animal assemblage, a definition for ear-tip, a definition of what a feral cat is, talking specifically about the TNR, the non-lethal approach, and then a couple of things within the licenses and permits, which simply requires or excludes community cats from being licensed because they're not owned cats. They're cats that somebody in the neighborhood or they found resources is caring for, but that person is not financially responsible for them. A few other places as well: Just letting you know that TNR is permitted within the City of Evansville.

So thank you very much for your time tonight. We're very excited because it's something that, like I said, has been happening already in our community but we feel

like a few little changes will allow this really to blossom and for more individuals, more groups, to get involved in doing this and can make a big impact on not only the non-profit organizations but Evansville Animal Care and Control so we can see the reduction in cats in our community.

Thank you so much.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Thank you.

**President Adams:** Are there any questions from Council for Ms. Paul?

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** I have a question.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** Yes?

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** You started with cats are difficult to trap. That was one of the first slides is that the difficulty in catching them. So what really changes with...under this program there'd be a different end result; the cat would be returned as opposed to euthanized but are you basically saying that you're less interested in trapping them now because most of the time you end up putting it to death and that with the return program that we'd actually trap more? *(Inaudible)*

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** I think when I actually was...when I referring to cats are difficult to catch, what I meant was a feral cat cannot be easily picked up...

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Oh sure.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:**...by someone. It is much easier to set a humane trap, bait it with food, allow that cat to go in it and then you have it where you where you can take it into a facility. That happens now. It can be taken in to say, Animal Control. If they get a cat, even it's a nice cat, most of the time that cat is going to have to be euthanized. Same thing if Vanderburgh Humane Society gets a cat that is not a cat that can be handled, that cat is going to be put to death and that's not something that we want to do. We want to be able to take care of these cats where they are because most of the time there is somebody out there who is already doing that in a neighborhood.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Oh sure.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** It's just a neighborhood cat. Somebody's putting food out for it...

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Everyone is.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:**...but if it's not fixed then it's adding to that population problem and that's when the nuisances start building up.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Oh sure. No...

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** But if we allow them to be trapped, neutered, and returned to where they are, now that problem isn't...that problem isn't happening.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** But are you going to trap more?

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** Absolutely.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** I mean is the idea that we will concertedly trap more than we are now that there's potentially a different result than euthanization?

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** Absolute...well, right now we're already doing that in the community but the ordinances don't technically allow us to do so and the...there are individuals in the community who are doing this privately but they're fearful that they might be hit with a citation or a ticket. If they join one of our groups or if they help bring attention to colonies of cats in the community that need fixing, they don't want to notify Animal Control or let them know about the fact that they could use some resources or that get us involved because they're afraid somebody's going to come and take all their cats away to euthanize them.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** No, no. I understand.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** If we had this protection in place then we can offer some more resources.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, second question...I have a cat. I have to get it vaccinated...I have to give it shots every year so when you talk about trapping and giving it one vaccination, how long is that going to last before they're potentially carriers of illness again?

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** The ultimate goal is if you have a managed colony, someone who is taking care of those cats, that they would, on an annual basis, re-trap to re-vaccinate and there is a three-year rabies vax. Once they've had the first rabies vaccination, the second time they go in for that rabies vaccination, then that's good for three years.

So the idea is that you hope once they've been vaccinated the first time that managed colony will be trapped again so they can get another vaccine. That does not always



happen but the benefit is at least they're getting one whereas now they're out there and aren't getting anything.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, third question: How long do you project that it takes to actually reach stabilization and then thereafter see a reduction?

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** Sure. Really that's very...it really depends on how many resources are available in your community. I'm very excited. I'm hoping that we can get some numbers. This next spring the VHS was involved in doing a massive fixing of cats within one particular zip code in our community. We just completed that. We hope that after this season we'll be able to see, "Did we really see a good reduction in those numbers?" And the same thing, most of those were owned cats, whereas what we're talking about is cats that are just on the street but it depends on how much you can get out there; how fast. Now I can tell you that with dogs in our community, the VHS opened our low-cost spay and neuter clinic back in 2007. Both Animal Control, Animal Care and Control and the Vanderburgh Humane Society are already seeing reductions in the number of dogs and the number of puppies that are coming in so that's less than 10 years-time, we are definitely seeing that. We're not seeing that yet in cats because that's been a priority of the community yet. Most of the time, just think about it, if you're driving down the road and you see a dog running loose often times you might stop or you might think, "Oh that dog is missing from someplace". Somebody will stop and they'll try to pick it up. But if you see a cat you generally don't think anything about it. You just figure it lives somewhere in that neighborhood. So if we can put a stronger emphasis on fixing cats in the community and a program like this, I feel like we can see very similar effects like we've seen with dogs.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, thank you.

**President Adams:** Any other comment from Council? I want to thank you for coming tonight.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** Oh, thank you.

**President Adams:** You're collaborative work...it sounds really exciting and I think this is something...you were kind enough to send us some of these suggestions. I'll send it on to our lawyer, Danks, to work. Hopefully very shortly we'll be bringing it for a First Reading.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** Wonderful.

**President Adams:** I'd like to take this opportunity to have a shout-out for Officer Sarah Brown. She...on a couple of occasions I have called her and her response was quick,

profession, alert, and I really appreciate her work. She's here tonight. Thank you so much Officer.

*Applause*

**Councilwoman Robinson:** Could I...I have a question for...okay, she has a cat and she hates it. Okay, now if she throws that cat outside will that cat come back in? I mean will you bring it back to the neighborhood?

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** Well I mean certainly we would never advocate for somebody just throwing a cat outside. If you have a cat...

**Councilwoman Robinson:** He's fixed.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:**...that you don't want any longer...

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** She's fixed...

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:**...there are resources.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:**...it just really hasn't worked out between the two of us.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** Okay, if it's been a housecat we would hope that one of our agencies in town would be able to try to work with that animal and find it a fresh home where it can stay inside as opposed...

**Councilwoman Robinson:** But if now, would you bring it back to the neighborhood I'm asking?

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** If a cat, I mean, if there is a cat that is living in a neighborhood that has not been fixed and we catch that cat as a part of this program where we know someone is caring for it, that there are resources being provided for it in that location, then that cat would be fixed, then yes, it would be taken back to that neighborhood. If that cat is causing a nuisance behavior then we try to determine what is that behavior and can it be dealt with. If it can't sometimes the only option is to remove that animal and unfortunately put it to death or euthanize that animal if that nuisance behavior won't improve.

**Councilwoman Robinson:** If no one in the neighborhood wants the cat, do you still bring it back to the neighborhood?

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** We make sure...we would make sure that there were resources in that neighborhood; that somebody there is taking care of it and feeding it. If nobody in that neighborhood wants it, most likely the cat's not going to stay if it's not being fed, if there're not resources that are available to it. But the idea is not to just take someone's indoor cat and then throw it outside; it's trying to deal with cats that are already there...

**Councilwoman Robinson:** Okay.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:**...and trying to reduce the overall population.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** No, and I'm really just kidding about the cat but...

**Councilwoman Robinson:** No you're not.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** I found her as a kitten. It's been two years. I did use your clinic to have her...

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** Good, thank you.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:**...spayed but it's one of the reason that even though I don't care for the animal, I never really consider giving it up because I assume that it, you know, that there's just so many cats out there trying to be adopted...

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** And there are...and there are.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:**...so we just make it work. Her and I stay in separate rooms.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** And that's good. Keep it up, that's good.

**President Adams:** Any further...

**Councilwoman Mosby:** I just want to thank you for all your time and efforts along with the rest of the EPAW group. You've done a great job of informing the public and the Council. I thought it was a great presentation and I did...one of my dogs used your spay and neuter clinic a couple weeks ago and I very impressed. They did a wonderful job so keep up the great work.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** Thank you, thank you very much. We should, just a little plug for that, we are on track of hitting our 50,000<sup>th</sup> surgery this year done here in this community but we are extremely excited about the work that EPAW can do. It's great to

collaborate with other like-minded, like-missioned organizations. We don't always agree on everything, absolutely, but we all similar goals and a very similar vision for the community so it's been a great group.

Thank you all very much for your time tonight.

**President Adams:** Thank you again.

**Kendall Paul of EPAW:** We appreciate it.

**President Adams:** Ok, we have a couple of people who would like to talk to us tonight on various subjects.

Ms. Keidra Ellis is here. If you could try to keep it around three minutes and then give us your full name and your address please.

**Keidra Ellis:** My name is Keidra Elaine Ellis and my address?

**President Adams:** Your address, your home address.

**Keidra Ellis:** 1817 Ridgeway Avenue.

**President Adams:** Thank you ma'am.

**Keidra Ellis:** Evansville, Indiana. Good evening everyone. I'm here...first, I want to start off by saying hi and thank you for taking time to hear my voice. It's an honor to stand here before you. As I just mentioned, my name's Keidra Ellis and I'm here representing my mother, Mrs. Ellis.

To give you a brief background, my mother currently resides at 1411 Hobart Avenue. This is a scattered-site home and is a participant of the HUD Housing Program, managed by the Housing Authority of Evansville. She moved out there on Hobart in November of 1986. November of this year will be 29 years of her residing on Hobart under Evansville Housing Authority.

In January 2015 she received a notice for immediate eviction from rent that was due in August of 2014, which at that time there was not attempt of reconciliation. She was told by Pam Terry, the Evansville Housing Authority accountant, that no payment was posted for August of 2014. Fortunately, I myself pulled copies of all the cashier's checks purchased from the Evansville Teachers Federal Credit Union. In fact, they were all stamped by Housing Authority of Evansville, cashed, and cleared.

We were advised to meet the housing manager Tequita Sheriff in order to show proof of payment in order to resolve the issue. However the director, Tim Martin, refused this attempt of reconciliation as did Tequita.

We went to court with proof of payment. Eviction was granted because February's rent was not paid, although according to their policy, they do not accept payments until a questionable month is resolved.

My mother was given 14 days to move out in the middle of winter after 29 years of residency. A little bit more background, my mother raised my brother and I as a single parent in government housing. She always worked and provided the best she could. My brother, which is the head of household, takes care of mentally challenged adults. I myself hold a registered nursing degree and start in a master's program in the end of March. Cameron was also a graduate of the Youth Build program founded by the Housing Authority and I was a dancer with the Evansville Housing Authority in the early 90s under the direction of Sherry Hoy Hass.

When we moved in on Hobart there were only two houses; now it's a 16 housing neighborhood. My grandmother, Helen Martin, fought to get street lights installed in 1991, in which she was successful and started a neighborhood watch in which she was successful.

I think the people of Evansville deserve to know how the programs are run by our tax dollars. As a registered nurse it's my duty to advocate for low-income, sick, disabled, and people with limited resources. I'm afraid that this misappropriation of funds and poor bookkeeping related to the HUD government programs will be at the cost of someone's housing. This matter was handled without care or consideration. It's disheartening that this type of thing could happen in a program that has a mission statement to, "Create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers and utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life and to build sustainable communities, free from discrimination".

**President Adams:** Any comments?

**Councilman Lindsey:** Yeah, how old is your mother?

**Keidra Ellis:** Fifty.

**Councilman Lindsey:** Fifty, all right.

**Unidentified Speaker:** *(Off Mic)* Fifty-two.

**Keidra Ellis:** Fifty-two.

***Speaking Simultaneously***

**Councilman Lindsey:** Fifty-two.

**Councilman Lindsey:** And when was she evicted?

**Keidra Ellis:** She went to court on March 19. The judge ruled for her to be out of the housing in two weeks.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** *(Off Mic)* February 19, just last week.

**Keidra Ellis:** Okay, yeah.

**Councilman Lindsey:** Okay, is there anybody here with HUD or with any of these organizations that would like to speak up.

**Councilwoman Robinson:** I think his father is the new president of the...Dave Hat...

**President Adams:** Why don't we let...

**Councilwoman Robinson:** Okay.

**President Adams:**...Attorney Hatfield speak for himself.

**Councilwoman Robinson:** Because I wanted to speak for him.

**Council Attorney Pro Tem Hatfield:** I don't know that I have anything to add, however, I gave you the number of the new president of the Housing Authority Association. I believe that he would be interested in seeing what's happened here and helping you in any way that he can. Other than that I don't know if there's anything that the City Council can do here tonight but I personally would like to thank you for appearing and letting the City know what's happened to your mother and what's going on and hopefully there's something that can be done.

**Keidra Ellis:** All right.

**President Adams:** Would you like to make some comment?

**Councilwoman Robinson:** *(Off Mic)* No I don't. I'll talk to you...are you Ira Martin?

**Councilman Lindsey:** Niece.

**Councilwoman Robinson:** *(Off Mic)* Oh, okay. Well I know you're his sister then I guess. Okay.

**Keidra Ellis:** Yeah. But I just wanted to, you know, have my voice heard because it's unfortunate that things like this happen. Whenever programs adopt those types of mission statements I believe they should uphold 'em and my brother and I are both products of government housing and I turned out to be pretty good, as did he. And my mother did that by herself as a single mother and, like I said, she's been a resident out there for 29 years, started a neighborhood watch, did things like that; got street lights and stop signs installed on the street back in '86 and this is the way that they've treated her. They didn't even allow her 30 days to move out and it just saddens me because you know when you have low-income people, nine times out of ten they may have limited resources and it's scary to me because I wonder how many people this has happened to that did not have resources to speak up about it and I think the people deserve to know how our tax dollars are being spent when they go into programs like these.

**Councilwoman Robinson:** Have you talked to anyone on the Housing Authority Board?

**Keidra Ellis:** Well I spoke with Pam Terry, which is their accountant...

**Councilwoman Robinson:** Hu-hum.

**Keidra Ellis:**...and the only thing she could really do was assure me that according to her ledger they had no funds received for that month in question although I had the check stamped from the Housing Authority for the month in question. Tim Martin, which is the director over there, he refused to speak with me. He said, "You just need to go to court", so I have all these conversations recorded. Of course they did hear that; they wouldn't hear that in court, but for my own record I just wanted some validation on the situation at hand.

Daphne Robinson is vice-chairwoman of the board. After the session I'll give you her private number and you can give her a call. We don't have any appointments on the board; they all serve at the pleasure of the mayor, but I'll give you Daphne's number so that you can also give her a call tonight.

**Keidra Ellis:** Okay.

**Councilwoman Robinson:**...and make her aware of what's going on because I had a situation similar to this a few months back and I just referred the individual to Daphne and I believe she worked it out.

**Keidra Ellis:** Okay. All right, well thank you.

**Unidentified Speaker:** Good luck.

**President Adams:** Thank you for coming.

Is there anyone, other than Randy, that wants to talk tonight?

Would you like to come forth?

**Randy Jones:** *(Off Mic)* No.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** No?

**Randy Jones:** *(Off Mic)* I just gave that to you earlier.

**President Adams:** We've all been given pictures of the storage along Sixth Avenue... Sixth Street...

**Randy Jones:** *(Off Mic)* Sixth Avenue.

**President Adams:**...and the query was what's going to happen with the new med school gets built? How are these two blocks going to be...if they're filled with big trucks every week or at every event, how is that going to be in terms of the flow around the med school and I'll be glad to send an email to the director of the Ford Center, Scott Schoenike I think, it is who, really responds quickly to us and see if we can't proactively solve that problem. Thank you for bringing it up.

Any other comments about anything else we would to talk about tonight from the crowd or from the floor? Great.

Okay, Committee Reports.

#### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 9, 2015**

##### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Re: **Ordinance G-2015-1**

Time: 5:25 p.m.

Notify: Scott Danks

##### **CHAIRMAN CONOR O'DANIEL**

Authorizing Various Accounts of the  
City of Evansville, Indiana and Requiring  
Disclosure of Transfers

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Russ, I don't think we have a date yet to meet on that but if you can



get with us in the next couple days I'd appreciate that. And that's all we're going to do on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**President Adams:** I also want to let Council know that I sent an email to Russ asking him when we are going to meet the next time so hopefully soon.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRMAN AL LINDSEY**

No meeting scheduled at this time

**A.S.D. COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRMAN STEPHANIE BRINKERHOFF-RILEY**

No meeting scheduled at this time


**President Adams:** Great. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

**Councilwoman Mosby:** So moved.

**Councilman Lindsey:** Second.

**President Adams:** Thank you. Thank you all for coming.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

  
Laura Windhorst, City Clerk

  
H. Dan Adams, President